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# A Gender Biased Educational Pattern in Urban Slums of Uttar Pradesh

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## ABSTRACT

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*Education or enlightenment is one of the most important aspect of any society for overall development, right from a smallest unit of household upto a nation as a whole. In fact population is a resource, which can be useful only after attaining certain educational level. Unfortunately in Uttar Pradesh the level of education is far behind than some of the states and less than the national average. The educational level and pattern is quite biased in favour of male population and females are mostly illiterate or trailing their counter part. Our survey of 147 slums of eight towns/cities of U.P. reveals 49.55 per cent male illiterates and 61.59 per cent female illiterates, obviously due to social hurdles. Level of education among males and females after primary education fall a part as we gradually move towards higher education. As at primary level 21.64 per cent males and 20.52 per cent females are qualified, but the gap goes on increasing at Middle M.12.50, F.8.37, High School M.8.84, F.4.11, Intermediate M.4.46, F.2.53, Degree M.3.66, F.1.74 and Technical level M.0.21, F.0.01 per cent. In slums mostly people are the migrants and engaged in menial low paid jobs, over-all child labour is a common phenomenon. Even special education Balwari Shiksha and Anopcharik Shiksha arranged by the Government for 3-6 and 7-14 years age-group children respectively, couldn't succeed due to intense poverty, when the classes were arranged at the door-step of the slum dwellers. However, two things emerge in this study that the female education mainly suffers due to extreme poverty and social insecurity, which society and government failed to tackle so far.*

## A GENDER BIASED EDUCATIONAL PATTERN IN URBAN SLUMS OF UTTAR PRADESH

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### INTRODUCTION

Education or enlightenment is one of the most important aspects of any society for over all development, right from a smallest unit of household upto a nation as a whole. In fact population is a resource, which can be useful only after attaining certain educational level. Unfortunately still more than half of our slum population (15561 population of 2951 sample households) belonging to 147 selected surveyed slums of eight sample towns/cities are illiterate, i.e. 55.18 per cent (See Table-1). Illiteracy is extremely high in Rae Bareli and Shahjahanpur with 85.22 and 75.04 per cent respectively. Comparatively lower illiteracy is found in Ghaziabad 41.72, Faizabad 44.47 and Dehradun 45.27 per cent respectively. Among 8281 male population overall illiteracy average of 147 slums belonging to eight sample towns/cities surveyed is 49.55 per cent. The highest male illiteracy is found in Rae Bareli 82.91 per cent and Shahjahanpur 69.97 per cent when the lowest is in Ghaziabad 33.41 per cent and Dehradun 39.76 per cent. As usual among 7280 females illiteracy as an overall average is higher in comparison to male, i.e. 61.59 per cent. The highest female illiteracy is



average is 21.12 per cent. The highest primary educated people are recorded in Dehradun 26.34 followed by Jhansi 25.56 and Faizabad 25.11 per cent. The least proportion is in Rae Bareli 11.91 per cent, followed by Shahjahanpur 14.09 per cent and Lucknow 19.25 per cent, which are below the overall average.

Table 2 : EDUCATIONAL LEVEL IN SLUMS

Town/ City	Population			Percentage Educated to Total Population					
				Primary			Middle		
	T (100)	M (100)	F (100)	T	M	F	T	M	F
DEHRADUN	1025	498	527	26.34	26.71	26.00	8.29	9.64	7.02
FAIZABAD	1167	607	560	25.11	24.05	26.25	16.20	17.96	14.29
GHAZIABAD	1740	907	833	24.83	26.35	23.17	11.67	14.11	9.00
GORAKHPUR	2043	1075	968	21.68	22.05	21.28	10.47	12.74	7.95
JHANSI	1999	1030	969	25.56	27.38	23.63	15.96	19.22	12.49
LUCKNOW	5564	3070	2494	19.25	19.38	19.09	9.54	11.34	7.34
RAEBARELI	873	468	405	11.91	12.61	11.11	2.75	3.21	2.22
SHAHJAHANPUR	1150	626	524	14.09	16.13	11.64	6.87	8.31	5.15
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15561</b>	<b>8281</b>	<b>7280</b>	<b>21.12</b>	<b>21.64</b>	<b>20.52</b>	<b>10.56</b>	<b>12.50</b>	<b>8.37</b>

Contd....

Table 2 (contd....)

Town/ City	Percentage Educated to Total Population											
	High School			Intermediate			Degree			Tech. Education		
	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F
DEHRADUN	5.76	7.43	4.17	5.37	5.82	4.93	4.49	6.83	2.28	0.00	0.00	0.00
FAIZABAD	7.11	9.56	4.46	4.37	5.44	3.21	3.43	3.62	3.21	0.00	0.00	0.00
GHAZIABAD	7.64	10.14	4.92	4.71	6.62	2.64	3.39	4.41	2.28	0.63	1.10	0.12
GORAKHPUR	5.43	6.60	4.13	5.34	6.60	3.93	2.64	4.00	1.14	0.00	0.00	0.00
JHANSI	8.55	12.52	4.33	2.10	2.82	1.34	2.60	3.40	1.75	0.20	0.39	0.00
LUCKNOW	7.58	9.93	4.69	3.63	4.53	2.53	3.07	4.04	1.88	0.04	0.07	0.00
RAEBARELI	2.29	2.78	1.73	0.46	0.43	0.49	0.23	0.21	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.00
SHAHJAHANPUR	2.78	4.31	0.95	0.70	0.96	0.38	0.52	0.64	0.38	0.09	0.16	0.00
TOTAL	6.63	8.84	4.11	3.55	4.46	2.53	2.76	3.66	1.74	0.12	0.21	0.01

Source: Based on Survey Conducted by the author and his team at Giri Institute of Development Studies, Lucknow for the Project : 'Evaluation of Urban Basic Services For the Poor', August-December, 1998

Among the male and female primary education, female lack by only 1.12 per cent as a whole. Primary educated male population is over all 21.64 per cent, Jhansi being the highest with 27.38 per cent, followed by Dehradun 26.71 per cent and Ghaziabad 26.35 per cent. As stated female primary educated are slightly less than male i.e. 20.52 per cent are highest, in Faizabad 26.25 per cent and Dehradun 26.00 per cent. The lowest is recorded in Rae Bareli 11.11 per cent, Shahjahanpur 11.64 per cent and Lucknow 19.09 per cent.

### MIDDLE LEVEL EDUCATION

Middle level education among the people is over all 10.56 per cent when Faizabad and Jhansi are highest with 16.20 and 15.96 per cent respectively. The least middle educated are recorded in Rae Bareli 2.75 per cent followed by Shahjahanpur 6.87, Dehradun 8.29 and Lucknow 9.54 per cent. Male middle educated are 12.50 per cent as a whole. Jhansi and Faizabad towns have highest male middle educated with 19.22 and 17.96 per cent respectively. The least proportions are in Rae Bareli 3.21, Shahjahanpur 8.31 and Dehradun 9.64 per cent. Female middle educated population is only 8.37 per cent as a whole, which is much less than the male middle educated 12.50 per cent. Here the drop outs of females starts for further school education due to tradition and culture of the society. Among the sample towns/cities the highest proportion of female middle educated are in Faizabad and Jhansi with 14.29 and 12.49 per cent respectively. The lowest is observed in Rae Bareli and Shahjahanpur where middle educated females are only 2.22 and 5.15 per cent respectively.

### HIGH SCHOOL LEVEL EDUCATION

Class X or High School pass are over all 6.63 per cent in our total survey of eight towns/cities when in Jhansi it is recorded 8.55 per cent, which is highest followed by Ghaziabad 7.64. Lucknow 7.58 and Faizabad 7.11 per cent. Rae Bareli and Shahjahanpur are reported to be on bottom where

the proportions are less than half of over all average, i.e. 2.29 and 2.78 per cent respectively. Among High School pass male population the over all proportion is 8.84 per cent, only in Jhansi the proportion is relatively higher with 12.52 per cent. Followed by Ghaziabad, Lucknow and Faizabad where proportions are more than the average with 10.14, 9.93 and 9.56 per cent respectively. The lowest male High School educated are in Rae Bareli 2.79 per cent, rest Shahjahanpur 4.31, Gorakhpur 6.60 and Dehradun 7.63 per cent which are also below the average. Females High School educated are less than half with 4.11 per cent than the male High School. In Shahjahanpur and Rae Bareli the proportions of female High School pass are too less in comparison to the over all average with only 0.95 and 1.73 per cent respectively.

#### INTERMEDIATE LEVEL EDUCATION

Intermediate or XII class educated are 3.55 per cent, a little more than half of the high school educated as an overall average. Dehradun and Gorakhpur have got comparatively the highest Intermediate educated with 5.37 and 5.34 per cent respectively, followed by Ghaziabad 4.71 and Faizabad 4.37 per cent, which are above the over all average. Extremely low proportions of Intermediate educated are found in Rae Bareli and Shahjahanpur with only 0.46 and 0.70 per cent respectively. Male Intermediate educated on an average are 4.46 per cent when the highest proportions are in Ghaziabad and Gorakhpur with 6.62 and 6.60 per cent

respectively. Dehradun, Faizabad and Lucknow are above the average with 5.82, 5.44 and 4.53 per cent male intermediate educated respectively. Low proportions of educated at Intermediate level are in Rae Bareli 0.43, Shahjahanpur 0.96 and Jhansi 2.82 per cent. Over all Intermediate level of educated among females is quite low with only 2.53 per cent, which is much less than the female High School educated 4.11 per cent. Comparatively highest proportion was found in Dehradun 4.93 and followed by Gorakhpur 3.93 and Faizabad 3.21 per cent which are only above the average. The lowest proportions of Intermediate level of educated are in Shahjahanpur 0.38, Rae Bareli 0.49 and Jhansi 1.34 per cent.

#### DEGREE LEVEL EDUCATION

Degree level educated are further reduced to an overall average of only 2.76 per cent when High School and Intermediate level educated were at 6.63 and 3.55 per cent respectively. The highest degree level educated are found in Dehradun 4.49 per cent followed by Faizabad, Ghaziabad and Lucknow having 3.43, 3.39 and 3.07 per cent respectively. The least proportions are in Rae Bareli and Shahjahanpur with 0.23 and 0.52 per cent respectively. Among male degree holders the average is 3.66 per cent of all the town/cities surveyed. The highest males with degree are in Dehradun 6.33 per cent, other towns/cities are Ghaziabad 4.41, Lucknow 4.04, and Gorakhpur 4.00 per cent, which are above the over all average. Rae Bareli, Shahjahanpur are at the bottom with

0.21 and 0.66 per cent respectively, when Jhansi and Faizabad are below the average, i.e. 3.40 and 3.62 per cent respectively. Degree educated among females is almost negligible with only an average of 1.74 per cent, which is comparatively less than half of male degree holders. Female degree holders are highest in Faizabad with 3.21 per cent, when Dehradun 2.28, Ghaziabad 2.28, Lucknow 1.88 and Jhansi 1.75 per cent are above the average. The least proportion of female degree holders are in Rae Bareli and Shahjahanpur with 0.25 and 0.38 per cent respectively.

#### TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Technical education, mainly with diploma/certificate are very rare in 147 slums of selected eight towns/cities of Uttar Pradesh, with an overall average of 0.12 per cent only. These technical hands are only in Ghaziabad 0.63 per cent, Jhansi 0.20 per cent, Shahjahanpur 0.09 per cent and Lucknow 0.04 per cent and in rest of the towns/cities they are totally absent in our carefully sampled survey of 2951 households. In case of over all average male population having technical formal education is 0.21 per cent with highest in Ghaziabad 1.10 per cent and followed by Jhansi 0.39 per cent, Shahjahanpur 0.16 per cent and Lucknow only 0.07 per cent. In case of females with technical education are with an average of 0.01 per cent only and that also out of eight selected towns/cities they are only in Ghaziabad with 0.12 per cent.

### BALWADI SHIKSHA

Under the scheme of UBSP, government provided Balwadi Shiksha, a formal education at the door step of children 3-6 years age group to mostly poorest of the poor free of cost. The main purpose was to motivate and initiate those children in education who would have remained illiterate and without any formal education due to various socio-economic reasons. In order to motivate children, they were lured with popularly known 'Pushtahar' (a light refreshment) and reading/writing materials in the class room. Since this scheme of education was not only confined with particular section of people and it served widely among the UBSP identified slums, relevant enquiry was sought from all the 2951 surveyed households through a well planned questionnaire. It is also to be kept in mind that our survey highlights the situation which was prevalent at the time of survey, as households were not able to report with certainty about the functioning during previous years, may be due to mobility among people and time to time changes in the scheme. Table 3 reveals that total over all 24.04 per cent children of age-group 3-6 years were regular in Balwadi classes. Dehradun reported to be the highest where 65.70 per cent children were regular in Balwadi classes, followed by Lucknow 35.09 and Ghaziabad 28.16 per cent which are above the average. In Gorakhpur only 11.82 per cent attended the Balwadi regularly which is lowest and followed by Lucknow 19.28 per cent which are below the average. Faizabad, Rae Bareli and Shahjahanpur towns

reported to be without Balwadi services. In case of male children attending the Balwadi classes regularly were reported to be 22.98 per cent as a whole, when in Dehradun the regularity level was highest with 62.03 per cent. Lucknow 33.78 and Ghaziabad 31.82 per cent, which were above the over all average. Gorakhpur reported to be least with 8.93 per cent and by Jhansi 17.78 per cent which are below the average. As stated in Faizabad, Rae Bareli and Shahjahanpur where Balwadi scheme was not functional at the time of survey. Among the female children, the attendance is

Table 3 : BALBADI SHIKSHA AMONG (3-6) AGE-GROUP CHILDREN OF SLUMS

Town/ City	Children (3-6) Age-group			Percentage of children (3-6)age group attending Balwadi Shiksha Classes		
				Regular		
	Total (100)	Male (100)	Female (100)	Total	Male	Female
DEHRADUN	172	79	93	65.70	62.03	68.82
FAIZABAD	139	71	68	0.00	0.00	0.00
GHAZIABAD	245	132	113	28.16	31.82	23.89
GORAKHPUR	313	168	145	11.82	8.93	15.17
JHANSI	249	135	114	19.28	17.78	21.05
LUCKNOW	580	299	281	35.00	33.78	36.30
RAE BARELI	133	63	70	0.00	0.00	0.00
SHAHJAHANPUR	124	58	66	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	1955	1005	950	24.04	22.98	25.16

Contd....

Table 3 (contd....)

Town/ City	Percentage of children (3-6)age group attending Balwadi Shiksha Classes					
	Occasional			Never		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
DEHRADUN	0.00	0.00	0.00	34.30	37.97	31.18
FAIZABAD	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
GHAZIABAD	0.00	0.00	0.00	71.84	68.18	76.11
GORAKHPUR	0.00	0.00	0.00	88.18	91.07	84.83
JHANSI	0.00	0.00	0.00	80.72	82.22	78.95
LUCKNOW	1.21	1.67	0.71	63.79	64.55	62.99
RAE BARELI	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
SHAHJAHANPUR	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
TOTAL	0.36	0.50	0.21	75.60	76.52	74.63

Source: Based on Survey Conducted by the author and his team at Giri Institute of Development Studies, Lucknow for the Project : 'Evaluation of Urban Basic Services For the Poor', August-Dec. 1998

highest with 25.16 per cent in five towns/cities with Balwadi scheme. The highest proportion of female children attending the Balwadi classes were 68.82 per cent in Dehradun followed by Lucknow with 36.30 per cent. Female proportions were less than the average as reported in Ghaziabad 23.89 per cent, Jhansi 21.05 per cent and Gorakhpur only 15.17 per cent.

Males and females attending Balwadi classes occassionally, were only reported in Lucknow with 1.67 and 0.71 per cent respectively and their total comes 1.21 per cent. Rest other seven towns/cities were not reported any occasional attendance. About three-fourths of the children of the age grup 3-6 years are not attending the Balwadi, who are 75.60 per cent as a whole in eight selected towns/cities. Among never attending Balwadi, the highest proportion is in Gorakhpur 88.18 per cent and the lowest is in Dehradun 34.30 per cent. As stated above in Faizabad, Rae Bareli and Shahjahanpur Balwadis were not functional. Also the male children of 3-6 years age group who never go to Balwadi are 76.52 per cent as a whole when in Gorakhpur they are 91.07 per cent as highest followed by Jhansi 82.22 per cent. Least in Dehradun 37.97 per cent followed by Lucknow 64.55 and Ghaziabad 68.18 per cent. Among the overall female children 74.63 per cent do not attend Balwadi while this proportion is highest in Gorakhpur 84.88 per cent followed by Jhansi 78.95 and Ghaziabad 76.11 per cent. Lowest are in Dehradun with 31.18 per cent followed by Lucknow 62.99 per cent.

#### ANOUCHARIK SHIKSHA

Under the UBSP scheme another higher education system of Anoupacharik Shiksha was evolved to educate the grown up children of 7-14 years age group belonging to poorest of the poor at their door step, otherwise they could have gone astray and ultimately confined with meagre and casual

employment for ever. However, Anoupcharik Shiksha couldn't become popular like Balwadi, only less than 4 per cent children on an average attend the classes regularly or occasionally in five towns/cities and perhaps in Faizabad, Rae Bareli and Shahjahanpur Anoupcharik Shiksha was not functional at the time of survey (Table 4). Mass scale absence and detachment of children from Anoupcharik Shiksha is due to extreme poverty and ill-gotten traditions, resulting to a socio-economic abuse of child labour and child marriage. Total children who are regular in classes of

Table 4 : ANOUPCHARIK SHIKSHA AMONG (7-14) AGE GROUP CHILDREN OF SLUM

Town/ City	Children (7-14) Age group			Percentage of children (7-14) age group attending Anoupcharik shiksha classes		
				Regular		
	Total (100)	Male (100)	Female (100)	Total	Male	Female
DEHRADUN	243	115	128	17.28	13.91	20.31
FAIZABAD	281	130	151	0.00	0.00	0.00
GHAZIABAD	429	242	187	3.73	3.31	4.28
GORAKHPUR	475	255	220	0.63	1.18	0.00
JHANSI	406	217	189	1.97	2.30	1.59
LUCKNOW	1113	639	474	3.86	3.13	4.85
RAE BARELI	253	148	105	0.00	0.00	0.00
SHAHJAHANPUR	250	127	123	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	3450	1873	1577	3.25	2.79	3.81

Contd....

Table 4 (contd....)

Town/ City	Percentage of children (7-14) age group attending Anoupcharik Shiksha classes					
	Occasional			Never		
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
DEHRADUN	0.00	0.00	0.00	82.72	86.09	79.69
FAIZABAD	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
GHAZIABAD	0.00	0.00	0.00	96.27	96.69	95.72
GORAKHPUR	0.00	0.00	0.00	99.37	98.82	100.00
JHANSI	0.00	0.00	0.00	98.02	97.70	98.41
LUCKNOW	0.09	0.00	0.21	96.05	96.87	94.94
RAE BARELI	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
SHAHJAHANPUR	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
TOTAL	0.03	0.00	0.06	96.72	97.21	96.12

Source: Based on Survey Conducted by the author and his team at Giri Institute of Development Studies, Lucknow for the Project : 'Evaluation of Urban Basic Services For the Poor', Aug-Dec. 1998

Anoupcharik Shiksha are only 3.25 per cent. The highest attendance of children was found in Dehradun with relatively hooping 17.28 per cent followed by Lucknow 3.86 and Ghaziabad 3.73 per cent above the average. Whereas minimum was in Gorakhpur only 0.63 per cent children were regular. In Jhansi the regular children's attendance was recorded 1.97 per cent which was below the average.

Among the male children of 7-14 age group overall 2.79 per cent are regular in five towns of cities. The highest regular boys were recorded in Dehradun 13.91 per cent and the least in Gorakhpur 1.18 per cent. In Jhansi it was below the average 2.30 per cent and in Ghaziabad and Luknow, regular boys were 3.31 and 3.13 per cent respectively. Female children were comparatively more regular than boys in attending the Anoupcharik Shiksha classes, i.e. 3.81 per cent. Also in Dehradun girls were more regular than boys with highest 20.31 per cent. Jhansi has the least percentage of 1.59 per cent whereas Lucknow and Ghaziabad reported above the average i.e. 4.85 and 4.28 per cent respectively.

In case among the total children attending the classes occasionally were only 0.03 per cent and that was only found in Lucknow with 0.09 per cent. No male child was reported attending the classes of Anoupcharik Shiksha occasionally. Among all the towns/cities, only Lucknow reported 0.21 per cent girls attending the classes occasionally and the rest were nil.

Out of five towns/cities average 96.72 per cent children never attended the Anoupcharik Shiksha. Gorakhpur was the highest with 99.37 per cent followed by Jhansi 98.02, Ghaziabad 96.27, Lucknow 96.05 and least in Dehradun 82.72 per cent. In Gorakhpur, boys and girls never attending Anoupcharik Shiksha were 98.82 and 100.00 per cent respectively, while comparatively smallest proportions of boys and girls were in Dehradun 86.09 and 79.69 per cent

respectively. In Jhansi above the average and never attending boys and girls were 97.70 and 98.41 per cent respectively followed by Ghaziabad boys 96.69 and girls 95.72 and Lucknow boys 96.87 and girls 94.94 per cent.

#### CONCLUSION

The educational level and pattern is quite biased in favour of male population and females are mostly illiterate or trailing their counter part. Our survey of 147 slums of eight towns/cities of U.P. reveals 49.55 per cent male illiterates and 61.59 per cent female illiterates, obviously due to social hurdles. Level of education among males and females after primary education fall a part as we gradually move towards higher education. As at primary level 21.64 per cent males and 20.52 per cent females are qualified, but the gap goes on increasing at Middle M.12.50, F.8.37, High School M.8.84, F.4.11, Intermediate M.4.46, F.2.53, Degree M.3.66, F.1.74 and Technical level M.0.21, F.0.01 per cent. In slums mostly people are the migrants and engaged in menial low paid jobs, over-all child labour is a common phenomenon. Even special education Balwari Shiksha and Anopcharik Shiksha arranged by the Government for 3-6 and 7-14 years age-group children respectively, couldn't succeed due to intense poverty, when the classes were arranged at the door-step of the slum dwellers. However, two things emerge in this study that the female education mainly suffers due to extreme poverty and social insecurity, which society and government failed to tackle so far.

respectively. In Jhansi above the average and never attending boys and girls were 97.70 and 98.41 per cent respectively followed by Ghaziabad boys 96.69 and girls 95.72 and Lucknow boys 96.87 and girls 94.94 per cent.

#### CONCLUSION

The educational level and pattern is quite biased in favour of male population and females are mostly illiterate or trailing their counter part. Our survey of 147 slums of eight towns/cities of U.P. reveals 49.55 per cent male illiterates and 61.59 per cent female illiterates, obviously due to social hurdles. Level of education among males and females after primary education fall a part as we gradually move towards higher education. As at primary level 21.64 per cent males and 20.52 per cent females are qualified, but the gap goes on increasing at Middle M.12.50, F.8.37, High School M.8.84, F.4.11, Intermediate M.4.46, F.2.53, Degree M.3.66, F.1.74 and Technical level M.0.21, F.0.01 per cent. In slums mostly people are the migrants and engaged in menial low paid jobs, over-all child labour is a common phenomenon. Even special education Balwari Shiksha and Anopcharik Shiksha arranged by the Government for 3-6 and 7-14 years age-group children respectively, couldn't succeed due to intense poverty, when the classes were arranged at the door-step of the slum dwellers. However, two things emerge in this study that the female education mainly suffers due to extreme poverty and social insecurity, which society and government failed to tackle so far.